Numb. 87.

THE OBSERVATOR.

rks on the Commons Addreſs to the Queen. The Juſtice thereof. The Fate of ſuch detect Publick Abuſes. Of Private Intereſt and Parties. No Reliance on ſome Men. e Miſchiefs done to the Engliſh *Navy in the late Reign. Theſe Miſmanagements do not the leaſt affect King* William's *Reputation. Recommenders of Officers the Cauſe of iſmanagements. The Loſs of* Engliſh *Honour the greateſt Loſs. Reaſons why the Parment did not Redreſs Grievances in the late Reign.*

rom **Wednesday** February the 17th, to **Saturday** February the 20th, 170⅘.

try-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, here is the Addreſs of the Honourable Houſe of Com- s to the Queen; in which is contained an neration of *many Publick Abuſes*, *Miſma- ments* and *Grievances*, of which I have often d you ſpeak: I more and more wonder at great *Conduct* and *Wiſdom* of King *William*, being thus ſurrounded with Men of *Ava- us Principles*, ſeeking their own Private In- ſt, and not that of the Publick; I ſay, I nder how that Prince did our Nation any vice with ſuch unfit Inſtruments; and that eft his Succeſſor any Ground to ſtand upon.

Obſ. This Addreſs of the Commons is a Re- ſentation to Her Majeſty, of the Burden our tion lies under, being oppreſs'd by the hea- Weight of Debts; and of thoſe Inſtruments o brought us into theſe deplorable Circum- nces; This is a piece of Juſtice in the Com- ns done to the Memory of that Glorious nce King *William*, as alſo his Succeſſor Queen *nne*, our preſent Sovereign. To the former, that hereby the *Evil Authors* of the *Miſcar- ges* of his Reign are detected, and their *Inju- s done the Publick* are made manifeſt, ſo that e World hereby is aſſured K. *William* was not e Sourſe and Original of theſe Misfortunes: o the Queen, in Repreſenting to Her *the A- ſes in the former Reign*, that ſhe may make pro- iſion againſt *the like Evils* in her own; in ſhow- g her thoſe Rocks and Shelves on which the Government of King *William* was ſtranded, that hereby ſhe may ſteer clear, and keep the Helm f Government ſteady in its proper Channel: his is a *Political Chart*, which ſhows how the Avarice of Evil Men bears with the true Inter- ſt of our Country; and not only ſo, but it points to Her Majeſty what Men are fit to be employ'd on Board the Ship of State, by diſco- vering of thoſe who have let her grow foul and out of order, and who have Embezelled her Stores and Proviſions, and thereby made her Crew look with ſo languid an Aſpect. This is a piece of Juſtice done alſo to thoſe honeſt *Engliſh* Gentlemen who endeavoured to make a Diſcovery of theſe very Abuſes in the late Reign, but were obſtructed therein by the prevailing Power of Corrupt Miniſters and Sallary Parliaments, in that the Parliament has made a publick Repreſentation of thoſe very Evils they complain'd of, and endeavoured at that time to *Redreſs* by the *Ruine of themſelves and Families*.

Country-m. Are none of thoſe Gentlemen Employ'd under this Government?

Obſ. Several of them are Dead, and have ceaſed from their Labours in the trueſt Service of their Country. Mr. *Baſton*, a very honeſt Gentleman, who attempted to make a Diſcovery of the *Frauds* of the *Commiſſioners of the Sick and Wounded*, and the *Abuſes* relating to the *Navy*, broke his Heart and Dyed for Grief, to ſee the Ancient *Honour* and *Glory* of the *Engliſh* Nation *paſt a Retrieve*, and to ſee himſelf Abuſed by Court Paraſites, and eſteem'd a Calumniator and a Lyar by the Legions of *Modern Whigs*, and yet you ſee the Houſe of Commons in this Addreſs Repreſent, That *The Commiſſioners for the Sick and Wounded have brought in no Account during all the late Reign, and none ſince, any farther than the 31ſt* December 1690.

Country-m. To the Year 1690. that's pretty well, Sir: But here's Sir *Rowland Gwin*, the Earl of *Albemarle*, Mr. *Paſchall*, Mr. *Parkhurſt*, and others, Commiſſioners of the *Prize-Office*, have delivered in no Account at all to the Auditors of the Impreſt.

Obſ. Mr. *Paſchall*, in Vindication of himſelf, and others, Commiſſioners for Prizes, in a Book he Publiſhed, ſays, That neither he nor they pretended any Knowledge in Accounts and Book-keeping; and I know not but this may ſerve as a common Excuſe for 'em all; for did you ever find one of your Horſes 5—— Oats, that never eat any? And yet theſe were the Wiſe Honeſt Men of a certain Party, who recriminated on all ſuch as ſpoke againſt Publick Frauds, and who endeavoured to bring State Criminals to condign Puniſhment; ſo Bigotted are ſome Men to their Opinions and Party, that the Common Intereſt, in all their Actions, Subſides; and Private Intereſt, and that of a Party is always uppermoſt.

Country-m. Well, Sir, but I am very glad to ſee ſome Men now Enclined to puniſh ſuch as waſted the Publick Treaſure. I hope we ſhall have an end put to *Publick Cheats* and *Embezelments*; there ſeems to be a Diſpoſition in the People of *England* to be Juſt and Honeſt, I pray God increaſe and confirm it.

Obſ. You muſt not believe every Man is Honeſt that tells you ſo; ſome pretend Honeſty, and complain againſt Cheats in Offices, only to make Removes for themſelves, and when they are got into places, they prove like *Horſe Leaches*, they ſuck moſt confoundedly: It's no ſtrange thing to hear of Perſons, who in one Reign have Rail'd at Men in Offices, and have look'd at Preferments and Places, and ſpoke of them as the Fox talk'd of the Grapes, and who in the next Reign have run into a Court Intereſt, and by any means have work'd themſelves into Offices, the Buſineſs of which they

no more understood, than I understand Architecture. Truly, Honest *Country-man*, I often bewail the distressed condition of my Country, in relation to the Officers employ'd in the Publick Management, especially in the *Navy* of *England*, which is the chief Security of our Realm; what a confused Company of Gentlemen had we jumbled together at one *Admiralty Board*, throughout the whole last Reign, consisting of some *Seamen*, some *Landmen*, and some the Lord knows what; and every Branch of the Navy was proportioned to its Head, the *Admiralty*: The *Navy* and *Victualling* Acted their mischievous parts, but especially the *Victualling*. By the Care and Diligence of the Managers in that Post, we lost the Lives of many Sailors by bad Provisions, which indeed makes the state of *England* much worse at this present. For what by their *Abuse* in *Provisions* and *Pay* in the late Reign, they get under a Lee shore in this, out of the Reach of Press-Gangs, and will turn *Carters*, *Plow-men*, or any thing else, under Men like your self, rather than serve as they have been Educated, in the Service of the *Navy* of *England*.

The Publick Mismanagements of Officers must by no means be attributed to the Sovereign, but always to such as recommended those Persons to the Sovereign for the Offices and Places in which they were Employed; the Abuses mentioned in this Address can by no means therefore blemish the Reputation of K. *William* who employ'd these Men according to the Advice of the Ministers he had about him. And therefore we ought to do in this Case as in Cases of Murder, we ought to come on the Principals for Satisfaction and not on the Accessaries, the People recommending such Persons are the Principals in the Murder of their Country, and ought to be Accountable: If Persons recommending were answerable for the Sins of Ignorance of the Persons they recommend, and were to be punished for the same, they would be more careful and sparing of their Recommendations, and to this End the Wisest of Governments have kept as exact Registers of the Persons Recommending, as the Persons admitted into Offices.

This too would be one Means to prevent the Buying and Selling of Offices, which I shall conclude to be carried on in all Reigns, wherein Ignorant Persons get Preferment, for how can a Person who is either a Knave or a Fool get himself into an Office but by Virtue of Money, and at this Rate 'tis not worth any Mans while, by his Merit to deserve well of the Common Wealth, or by Study to qualifie himself for Publick Service, since both of them together are not a sufficient Recommendation to an Employment.

If the principal Recommenders in the late Reign had been prosecuted for employing and palming of Officers on the King, the present Parliament in all likelihood would not have had so much occasion for this Address: The Loss of our Money, and the vast Debts we are burthen'd with-all, are not so great a Detriment to the *English* Nation, as is the loss of our Honour and Reputation, and the Decay of our Navy, which is a thing of far worse consequence to us, than the Non-Accounting of some Men; what Reflection then do those Men deserve, who work'd themselves into the care of the Navy in the late Reign, and wither'd every Branch thereof, by employing Officers under them, who were either unskilful or dishoneſt. I often wondered at the several Wisdoms of Admiralty in my time, who are so careful make such Bustle about examining Officers much that every Captain, Lieutenant, Boat Gunner, *&c.* must pass an Examination b they can receive their Commissions or War when the safety only of one single Ship de upon their Knowledge, and at the same they never Examine the Commissioners o Victualling as to their Knowledge in tha fair, when the Lives of all the Sailors of *land* depend upon their Management. Crimes committed by Men in the Navy never, and ought not to be forgiven by *En men*, for they are Crimes of such a Na for which the Lives of the Transgressors never make Satisfaction to an injur'd Peo

Country-m. I am very well satisfy'd in w you say: King *William* was a good Prince, design'd well for *England*, but very ill Men into the Publick Management under him; was a good Huntsman, but he had a very Pack of Hounds. But, Mr. *Observator*, Address from the Parliament, is come too to do any good upon those People: Why not the Parliament lay such an Address be King *William*, That He might have known and Our Enemies, and have removed them fr His Person, which being done, would have moved these Evils from Us?

Obs. I'll tell you the true Reason why th did not, which is, in a Word, because th could not. The Persons that ran away w the Nations Money, always took care to ha the Major Part of the House of their side; a this they effected by gratifying the Mem either with Places, Grants, or Pensions; a sometimes they would Condescend to Partit Treaties, and split an Office between tw Members, that each of 'em, in regard to h Partage, might serve a Turn in the House; far the Court at that time prevail'd over t Country-Party, that a certain Person mention in this Address, standing up in the House sai he was sure the Major Part of the House wou concur with what he was going to say. 'I short, Sir, we were brought into such a Co dition as we were never in before. The fa vourites and Spendthrifts in *Charles* the 2d Reign, dreaded the very Name of a Parli ment; and therefore, by the good Nature o that Prince, they always kept Parliaments a a distance, by long Prorogations, or Dissolu ons, as the Necessities of their Sins requ red. But these were the bravest Favourites that ever Govern'd a King of *England*, for they Governed Parliaments also; and when at last the Representative Body of the People had gain'd so much Strength, as to Examine into the enormous Crimes of these Men; yet had they such an Influence over the Populace, as to Spirit them up to Attack their own Representatives with *Legion-Letters*, *Kentish-Petitions*, and *Black-Lists*; so that the Fate of *England* seem'd to sink under the Weight of these Powerful Men. Blessed be God we are eased of their Burden, That these State Moths are Whisk'd off the Garments of this Government; On which, if this Address of the Commons has so good effect as to prevent the like Evils for the future (which is the end of National Enquiries into Grievances) we shall make the best of a bad Market.

London, Printed by *J. How*, and Sold by *B. Bragg*, at the *Blew-Ball* in *Ave-mary-Lane*, 1703.